



Press Release

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Pennsylvania's September Yield Forecast

HARRISBURG—Based on crop conditions as of September 1, estimates of **Pennsylvania's** 2003 production of corn for grain, soybeans, and tobacco are expected to be above the levels of a year ago according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

The corn for grain yield was estimated at 122 bushels per acre, up seven bushels from the August 1 forecast and up 54 bushels from last year. With acreage for harvest currently estimated at 900,000, the resulting production is expected to be 109.8 million bushels, up 85.6 percent from a year ago.

The soybean yield was estimated at 40 bushels per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but 14 bushels above last year. With acreage for harvest currently estimated at 365,000, the resulting production is expected to be 14.6 million bushels, up 60 percent from last year.

The Maryland-type tobacco yield was estimated at 1,900 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds from a year ago. With acreage for harvest estimated at 1,300, the resulting production of 2,470,000 pounds will be 2.7 percent above last year. The Pennsylvania seedleaf tobacco yield was estimated at 2,100 pounds per acre. With acreage for harvest estimated at 2,400 acres, the resulting production of 5,040,000 pounds would be 14.3 percent above last year.

At the **United States** level, corn production is forecast at 9.94 billion bushels, down 1 percent from last month but 10 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 138.5 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from August, but up 8.5 bushels from last year. If realized, both the yield and production would be the second largest on record. The record for both was set in 1994 when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and the yield was 138.6 bushels per acre. Yields are lower than last month across much of the Great Plains and northern Corn Belt as hot dry conditions prevailed during most of August. However, yields are up in many southeast and Atlantic Coastal States as adequate moisture was received and conditions were mostly favorable. Farmers expect to harvest 71.8 million acres of corn for grain, down 100,000 acres from August, but up 4 percent from 2002.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.64 billion bushels, down 8 percent from the August forecast and 3 percent below 2002. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 36.4 bushels per acre, down 3.0 bushels from last month. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996. High temperatures and moisture shortages stressed the soybean crop during the critical stages of development in the Great Plains and western Corn Belt during August. Forecast yields are down in the northern Great Plains and upper-middle Mississippi Valley due to extremely dry weather. However, yield prospects improved in the Ohio Valley, Delta States, southeast, and Atlantic Coastal Plains due to mild temperatures and adequate moisture during August.

Tobacco production is forecast at 830.8 million pounds, down 5.7 percent from a year ago. Area harvested is estimated at 413,710 acres with an expected yield of 2,008 pounds per acre.